GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:257
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
INDO-IRAN GAS PIPELINE
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level official delegation visited Iran recently to discuss the Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether two sides agreed to involve Pakistan in the proposed laying of pipeline;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated cost of the gas pipeline?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) - (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in Parts (a) - (e) of the answer to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 257 To be answered on 6.12.2000

(a) &(b) Yes Sir,

During my visit to Iran in May 2000, India and Iran haddecided to establish a Joint Committee to go into all aspects of transfer of Iranian gas to India. The mandate of this Committee is to examine issues relating to the supply of Iranian gas to India, including different modes of transportation, route options and related political, security, economic and technical issues.

The first meeting of the Indo-Iran Joint Committee was held in Tehran in August 2000 and the second meeting was held in New Delhi on 22-23 November, 2000. The Indian delegation to both the meetings was led by Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The other members of the Indian delegation were officers from the Ministries of External Affairs, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Defence.

(c) & (d) No Sir, the proposal of a gas pipeline from Iran to India is a bilateral matter between India and Iran.

(e) As at present no estimate can be given as the proposal is still at the stage of concepts only.